

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/519,745

Applicant(s)

OHSHIMA, SHUNZOU

Examiner

Dharti H. Patel

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/26/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 02/26/2007 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance on 02/01/2007. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's reasons for allowance of claim 1: The prior art teaches a method of protecting a semiconductor device, comprising a DC power source, a semiconductor device, a load, a circuit element, cutting of a conduction of the semiconductor device, but does not disclose setting a constant of the circuit element so that the reference voltage is not greater than a critical voltage, wherein the critical voltage is a product of an on-resistance of the semiconductor device when its channel temperature is at an upper limit of a permissible temperature, and a minimum current value which causes the channel temperature to reach the upper limit of the permissible temperature by the self-heating due to Joule heat. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's reasons for allowance of claim 3: The prior art teaches a protection apparatus for a semiconductor device, comprising a DC power source, a load, a semiconductor device, a circuit element, a comparator, a cut off section, but does not disclose that a constant of the circuit element is set so that the reference voltage is not greater than a critical voltage, and wherein

the critical voltage is a product of the on-resistance of the semiconductor device when its channel temperature is at an upper limit of a permissible temperature, and a minimum current value which causes the channel temperature to reach the upper limit of the permissible temperature by the self-heating due to Joule heat. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitation is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dharti H. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service

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Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DHP
03/15/2007

Stephen W. Jackson
3-17-07

STEPHEN W. JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Please insert in the first paragraph on the first page of the application:

— — This application is the national stage application of international application number PCT/JP03/08786, filed on July 10, 2003, incorporated herein by reference. — —

It is noted that this application appears to claim subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. PCT/JP03/08786, filed 07/10/2003. A reference to the prior application must be inserted as the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76), if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c). See 37 CFR 1.78(a). For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of all nonprovisional applications. If the application is a utility or plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) on or after November 29, 2000, the specific reference to the prior application must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. If the application is a utility or plant application which entered the national stage from an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, the specific reference must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the date on which the national stage commenced under 35

U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. See 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and (a)(5)(ii). This time period is not extendable and a failure to submit the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and/or 120, where applicable, within this time period is considered a waiver of any benefit of such prior application(s) under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). A benefit claim filed after the required time period may be accepted if it is accompanied by a grantable petition to accept an unintentionally delayed benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). The petition must be accompanied by (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 or 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) to the prior application (unless previously submitted), (2) a surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t), and (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional. The petition should be addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

If the reference to the prior application was previously submitted within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a), but not in the first sentence(s) of the specification or an application data sheet (ADS) as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a) (e.g., if the reference was submitted in an oath or declaration or the application transmittal letter), and the information concerning the benefit claim was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on the first filing receipt, the

petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a) and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t) are not required. Applicant is still required to submit the reference in compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a) by filing an amendment to the first sentence(s) of the specification or an ADS. See MPEP § 201.11.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's reasons for allowance of claim 1: The prior art teaches a method of protecting a semiconductor device, comprising a DC power source, a semiconductor device, a load, a circuit element, cutting of a conduction of the semiconductor device, but does not disclose setting a constant of the circuit element so that the reference voltage is not greater than a critical voltage, wherein the critical voltage is a product of an on-resistance of the semiconductor device when its channel temperature is at an upper limit of a permissible temperature, and a minimum current value which causes the channel temperature to reach the upper limit of the permissible temperature by the self-heating due to Joule heat. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's reasons for allowance of claim 3: The prior art teaches a protection apparatus for a semiconductor device, comprising a DC power source, a load, a semiconductor device, a circuit element, a comparator, a cut off section, but does not disclose that a constant of the circuit element is set so that the reference voltage is not greater than a critical voltage, and wherein the critical voltage is a product of the on-resistance of the semiconductor device

when its channel temperature is at an upper limit of a permissible temperature, and a minimum current value which causes the channel temperature to reach the upper limit of the permissible temperature by the self-heating due to Joule heat. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitation is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

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DHP
03/22/2007

Stephen W. Jackson
3-23-07

STEPHEN W. JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER